



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Special Fishing Regulations, (FO-201)
Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to provide for better protection and preservation of fish, game and birds.

Discussion and Background:

The Big Island Lakes Complex in the Hiawatha National Forest is a popular destination for many outdoor enthusiasts, including anglers. Restrictive regulations for the Big Island Lakes Complex have played a key role in providing quality fisheries throughout the complex. Recent fisheries surveys and angler reports from within the wilderness area indicate that the current regulations are effective. This regulation has been in place for several years and has provided anglers with a quality angling experience while protecting fisheries resources for the enjoyment of many. There is much support from anglers to continue existing regulations to protect these valuable fisheries into the future.

Fisheries Orders issued under the authority of 1994 PA 451, Part 411 shall not remain in effect for more than five years unless renewed. The current order is set to expire March 31, 2010. We are recommending this order be renewed as written.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • John Madigan • Timothy L. Nichols • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

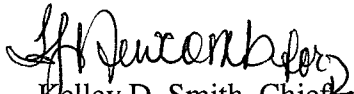
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July 13, 2009

Recommendation:

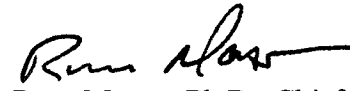
This order is being submitted for information and consideration at the August 13, 2009 Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's August 2009 calendar and is eligible for approval on September 10, 2009.

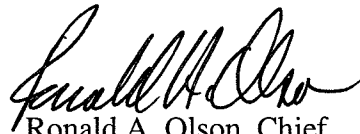

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division

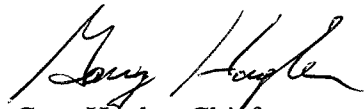

David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities


Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division


Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy


Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division


Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division


Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

ORDER

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS, BIG ISLAND LAKES COMPLEX, SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY

Under the authority of sections 41101 through 41105 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on September 10, 2009, ordered that for a period of five years no person shall possess, take or attempt to take any species of fish from the waters known as the Big Island Lake Complex, Schoolcraft County, except during the open seasons prescribed, within the minimum size limits and maximum possession limits indicated below, and methods as provided.

1. Fish may only be taken on artificial lures. The use of spears, nets, bow and arrow, or live bait to take fish is prohibited.
2. Size, possession limits, and open seasons:

Species	Open Seasons	Min. Size Limit	Daily/Possession Limit
Muskellunge or Northern Pike	May 15 – November 30	42"	1 fish per day
Bass	Sat. before Memorial Day – November 30	18"	1 fish per day
Yellow Perch, Bluegill & Pumpkinseed Sunfish	Last Sat. in April - November 30	5 fish per day	No size limit in combination
All other fish (not including trout)	Last Sat. in April - November 30	None	None

The Big Island Lake Complex is described as all lands and waters bounded by County Road 445 on the west, County Road 437 on the south, U. S. Forest Service Haywire Grade Snowmobile Trail on the east and Townline Lake Road on the north. The area includes all connecting waterways and 12 major lakes: Big Island, Townline, Mid, Coattail, McInnes, Klondyke, Ned's*, Vance, Twilight*, Blush, Byers and Bluegill, all in Schoolcraft County.

*Regulations pertaining to the taking of trout in these lakes are covered under FO-200.

This order shall be assigned number FO-201.10, and is entitled "Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County," effective April 1, 2005, and assigned number FO-201.05.

This order shall take effect April 1, 2010, and shall remain effective through March 31, 2015.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2009.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this order.

Keith J. Charters
Chairperson

Teresa Gloden
Executive Secretary